

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 22, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 12, 17-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a) and (b) as being anticipated by Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and *Lopez-Aguado* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,586,283). The Examiner further rejected claims 5-7, 13, and 20 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA or *Lopez-Aguido* in view of Official Notice. The Examiner also objected to the Specification as containing new matter, and rejected claims 3, 4, 8, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 23 and 24 have been allowed. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 5-7, 12, 13, and 17 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 23.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview with the undersigned conducted on November 1, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the new matter objection issued in the previous Office Action was improper. According to MPEP §608.01(l), Applicant may rely on the subject matter of the original claims in establishing a disclosure. In the previous response filed June 26, 2006, Applicant amended the specification to include the language of original claims 3, 4, 8, and 22. Thus, the new matter objection, as well as the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, are improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that all of the rejections of the pending claims be withdrawn. Applicant hereby earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. If for any reason, the application is not considered to be in condition for allowance on the next Office

Action and an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (312) 913-3334.

No fees are thought to be presently due at this time; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees required in connection with the paper(s) transmitted herewith, or to credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 13-2490.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 2, 2006

By: 
Jori R. Schiffman
Reg. No. 57,628

McDonnell Boehnen
Hulbert & Berghoff LLP
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6709
312 913 0001